

Docket No. 8173-29US

because of insufficient antecedent basis, improper dependency or missing periods at the end. No reasons were given for the rejection of claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 27 or 61.

In part 4, the Office Action objected to the Abstract. In part 5, the Office Action stated that "a thorough examination could not be performed" because of the informalities in the application and requested "that the informalities be corrected before an examination is done..." The Office Action does not point to any authority for refusing to perform the examination of the claims.

Remarks

Applicants are unable to address the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 27 or 61 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, because no reasons are given for the rejection of these claims. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn as to these claims, or that reasons be provided for the indefiniteness rejection of these claims.

According to 37 CFR 1.104, the Office Action is to be complete as to all matters except in certain limited situations such as misjoinder, fundamental defects, etc. MPEP 707.07(g) also states that piecemeal examination is to be avoided and each claim should be rejected "on all valid grounds available." Furthermore, it should be noted that the informalities in the claims and abstract do not make the subject matter of the claims unclear and do not prevent a search or examination from being performed.

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Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Office Action be corrected or supplemented to: 1) withdraw, or state the reason for, the rejection of claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 27 and 61; and 2) include an examination of the claims. Applicants also request that they be granted one month in which to respond to any such supplemental or corrected Office Action. MPEP 710.06

Respectfully submitted,


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